

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus which can use operating content information within a range of usage conditions ~~written~~ described in license information, comprising:

storage means for storing first license information corresponding to the content information;

receiving means for receiving second license information corresponding to the content information; and

linking license processing means for ~~linking a part or all of said second license information with said first license information~~ determining whether the second license information is an add attribute or overwrite attribute against the first license information used to combine the first license information and the second license information,

wherein ~~said~~ the content information is ~~used~~ operated within a range of license information obtained by ~~linking said~~ combining the first license information ~~with said~~ and the second license information ~~by said linking means~~.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when ~~[[if]]~~ ~~said~~ the second license information is ~~found by said license identification information~~ determined to be the license information to be ~~overwritten an~~ overwrite attribute, ~~said linking the processing~~ means writes a part or all of ~~said~~ the second license information over said first license information.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein, when ~~[[if]]~~ ~~said~~ the second license information is ~~found by said~~ license identification information determined to be the ~~license information to be added~~ add attribute, the linking processing means adds a part or all of ~~said~~ the second license information to ~~said~~ the first license information.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, by use of key information unique to said information processing apparatus, an electronic signature is appended to license information obtained by linking combining ~~said~~ the first license information ~~with said~~ and the second license information by ~~said linking~~ license processing means.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein, when ~~[[if]]~~ ~~said~~ the first license information and said second license information each include right contents for specifying a period limitation and said second license information is ~~found by said license identification information~~ determined to be ~~license information to be added~~ the add attribute, ~~said linking~~ the license processing means ~~links~~ combining ~~said~~ the first license information ~~with said~~ and the second license information by a rule based on ~~said~~ the right contents of ~~said~~ the first license information.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim ~~21~~, wherein, when ~~[[if]]~~ ~~said~~ the first license information and ~~said~~ the second license information each include right contents for specifying a flag and said second license information is ~~found by said license identification information~~ determined to be ~~license information to be added~~ the add attribute, ~~said linking~~ the license processing means ~~links~~

combines ~~said the~~ first license information ~~with said and the~~ second license information by a rule based on ~~said the~~ right contents of ~~said the~~ first license information.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 21, wherein, when ~~[[if]]~~ ~~said the~~ first license information and ~~said the~~ second license information each include right contents for specifying a count and ~~said the~~ second license information is ~~found by said license identification information determined~~ to be license information ~~to be added~~ the add attribute, ~~said linking the license processing means links~~ combines ~~said the~~ first license information ~~with said and the~~ second license information by a rule based on ~~said the~~ right contents of ~~said the~~ first license information.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): An information processing method ~~which can use~~ operating content information within a range of usage conditions ~~written~~ described in license information, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

storing first license information corresponding to the content information;

receiving second license information corresponding to the content information;

determining ~~on the basis of license identification information for determining one of~~ overwrite and add attributes whether said second license information is an add attribute or an overwrite attribute against the first license information received in said receiving step is license information ~~to be overwritten or license information to be added~~; and

~~linking~~ combining a part or all of said second license information with ~~said the~~ first license information on the basis of a result of the ~~attribute determination made in said~~ determining step,

wherein said content information is used within a range of license information obtained by ~~linking said~~ the combining the first license information ~~with said~~ and the second license information ~~in said linking step~~.

Claim 10 (Cancelled).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The information processing method according to claim 9, wherein, when ~~[[if]]~~ said the second license information is ~~found by said license identification information~~ determined to be ~~license information to be added~~ the add attribute in ~~said the~~ determining step, a part or all of ~~said the~~ second license information is added to ~~said the~~ first license information in said ~~linking~~ combining step.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The information processing method according to claim 9, wherein, when ~~[[if]]~~ said the first license information and ~~said the~~ second license information each include right contents for specifying a period limitation and said second license information is ~~found by said license identification information~~ determined to be ~~license information to be added~~ the add attribute in ~~said the~~ determining step, ~~said the~~ first license information is ~~linked~~ combined with ~~said the~~ second license information by a rule based on ~~said the~~ right contents of ~~said the~~ first license information in ~~said the~~ linking combining step.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The information processing method according to claim 9, wherein, when ~~[[if]]~~ said the first license information and ~~said the~~ second license information each include right contents for specifying a flag and ~~said the~~ second license information is ~~found by said license identification information~~ determined to be ~~license~~

~~information to be added~~ the add attribute in ~~said the~~ determining step, ~~said the~~ first license information is ~~linked~~ combined with ~~said the~~ second license information by a rule based on ~~said the~~ right contents of ~~said the~~ first license information in ~~said the~~ linking combining step.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The information processing method according to claim 9, wherein, when ~~[[if]]~~ ~~said the~~ first license information and ~~said the~~ second license information each include right contents for specifying a count and ~~said the~~ second license information is ~~found by said license identification information~~ determined to be license ~~information to be added~~ the add attribute in ~~said the~~ determining step, ~~said the~~ first license information is ~~linked~~ combined with ~~said the~~ second license information by a rule based on ~~said~~ right contents of ~~said the~~ first license information in ~~said the~~ linking combining step.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): An information processing system having storage means for storing first license information corresponding to the content information, receiving means for receiving second license information corresponding to the content information, and linking license processing means for ~~linking a part or all of said second license information with said first license information~~ determining whether the second license information is an add attribute or an overwrite attribute against the first license information used to combine the first license information and the second license information, ~~said the~~ information processing system comprising:

a client which uses content information within a range of license information obtained by linking combining ~~said the~~ first license information with ~~said the~~ second license information by ~~said linking~~ the license processing means; and

a server which sends ~~said the~~ second license information to ~~said the~~ client on

demand thereby through a network.